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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,896	01/30/2001	Nobuyuki Mori	826.1670	2674

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EXAMINER

DADA, BEEMNET W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2135

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/771,896

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Examiner

Beemnet W. Dada

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9 and 12-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9 and 12-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/20/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in reply to an amendment filed on September 20, 2004. Claims 1, 9, 12-16, 18-19, 24-29 have been amended, claims 5, 10 and 11 have been cancelled and new claims 30-33 have been added. Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 12-33 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-23, 26, 29 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyauchi US Patent 5,689,567.

4. As per claims 1 and 9, Miyauchi teaches a signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user [see abstract], comprising:

an input unit inputting identification information of the user [column 4, lines 38-45, figure 1a, step S11];

an output unit outputting information, the output information including program information for generation of illegal user prevention information for protecting against illegal use [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15].

Art Unit: 2135

5. As per claims 15, 17, 26 and 29, Miyauchi teaches a signature system, comprising:
an input unit through which a user inputs authentication information [column 4, lines 38-45, figure 1a, step S11];
a first generation unit generating first blind information of the authentication information [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15];
a device verifying signature information according to the authentication information, including an entry unit entering the blind information [column 5, lines 31-44 and column 6, lines 4-9];
a management unit managing the blind information of the authentication information entered by said entry unit [column 5, lines 45-67].
6. As per claim 2, Miyauchi further teaches said output unit encrypts and outputs the identification information [column 5, lines 3-12].
7. As per claims 3 and 4, Miyauchi further teaches said input unit inputs image data of an image of a seal as the identification information [column 3, lines 14-21].
8. As per claim 6, Miyauchi further teaches the system, wherein said program information contains a one-directional function and is used in generating blind information of use information using the one-directional function, and generating the illegal use prevention information containing the blind information [column 4, lines 54-61].
9. As per claim 7, Miyauchi further teaches the system, wherein said program information contains an encryption key, and is used in generating blind information of use information using

the encryption key, and generating the illegal use prevention information containing the blind information [column 4, lines 61-67].

10. As per claims 8 and 23, Miyauchi further teaches the system, wherein said program information is prepared such that, after the signature information is generated according to the information for generation of the signature information to present the signature information to the receiver, the program information itself can be removed from memory [column 4, lines 45-67].

11. As per claim 13, Miyauchi further teaches the system further comprising: a device verifying signature information according to the authentication information, including an entry unit entering the blind information [column 5, lines 31-44 and column 6, lines 4-9];

a management unit managing the blind information of the authentication information entered by said entry unit [column 5, lines 45-67].

12. As per claims 12, 14, 16, 18-20 and 32-33, Miyauchi further teaches the system, wherein said entry unit enters in the device verifying the signature a one-directional function and an encryption key, which are used to generate the blind information and required to authenticate a user, and wherein said management unit further manages the one-directional function and the encryption key entered by said entry unit [column 4, lines 54-67].

13. As per claims 21 and 22, Miyauchi further teaches the system, wherein said unit selectively inputs authentication information form among a plurality of items in an interactive mode with a user [column 4, lines 38-45, figure 1a, step S11].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyauchi US Patent 5,689,567 in view of Chow et al. US Patent 6,292,092 B1 (hereinafter Chow).

16. As per claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30 and 31 Miyauchi teaches a signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user [see abstract], comprising:

an input unit inputting identification information of the user [column 4, lines 38-45, figure 1a, step S11];

generating signature information of a user and illegal use prevention information for protection against illegal user, based on the inputted information [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15];

an output unit outputting information, the output information including program information for generation of illegal user prevention information for protecting against illegal use [column 4, lines 45-67, figure 2, steps 14-17 and figure 1a, steps S12-S15].

Furthermore, Miyauchi teaches an input means such as a scanner [see column 3, lines 18-19]. Miyauchi is silent on reading information in a bar code format and outputting generated

information and signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader. However it is old and well known to output signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader. For example, within the same field of endeavor Chow teaches a secure personal identification system including reading information in a bar code format and outputting generated information and signature program in a format readable by a bar code reader [column 3, lines 1-3, column 4, lines 63-67 and column 7, lines 57-63]. Both Miyauchi and Chow teach signature system. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Chow within the system of Miyauchi in order to further enhance the flexibility of the system by having barcode as input/output means.

Response to Arguments

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beemnet W. Dada whose telephone number is (571) 272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2135

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Beemnet Dada

May 26, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Vu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100